

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-125 (Canceled)

126. (Currently amended) A method for resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with an isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

i) a polypeptide comprising at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

ii) a polypeptide comprising at least 20% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2; and

iii) a polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

127. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

128. (Currently amended) The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein said bacterial cell is present in a sample, and the method identifies a bacterial cell ~~microbial infection~~ in the sample.

129. (Currently amended) The method of claim 128, wherein the bacterial cell is present in a patient.

130. (Canceled)

131. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein the polypeptide is in unit dosage form.

132-134. (Canceled)

135. (Withdrawn) A method for resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with an antibody or functional fragment thereof that binds a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- i) a polypeptide comprising at least 50% identity or homology with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2
- ii) a polypeptide comprising at least 50% homology with amino acid residues 224 to 318 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- iii) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 43;
- iv) a polypeptide comprising at least 20% identity or homology with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- v) a polypeptide homologue, allelic form, species variant or mutein comprising at least 50% identity or homology with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

136. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 135, wherein the antibody is suitable for use in therapy, diagnosis, or prophylaxis of a microbial infection.

137. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 136, wherein the therapy is an immunotherapy.

138. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 136, wherein the antibody is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for local or systemic administration.

139. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 136, wherein the antibody is in unit dosage form.

140-143. (Canceled)

144. (Currently amended) A method for resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- i) a polypeptide comprising at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
- ii) a polypeptide comprising at least 20% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- iii) a polypeptide comprising at least-amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

145-147. (Canceled)

148. (Currently amended) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises at least 90% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

149. (Currently amended) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises at least 95% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

150. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

151. (Withdrawn) A method for stimulating the growth of a bacterial cell comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with the isolated polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

152. (Withdrawn) A method for resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with an isolated *M. luteus* RF-factor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:35), thereby resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent bacterial cells.

153. (Withdrawn) A method for resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells comprising, contacting the bacterial cells with an isolated polypeptide comprising at least 85% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

154. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 153, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

155. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 154, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

156. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 155, wherein the polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

157. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is purified essentially to homogeneity.

158. (New) The method of claim 144, wherein the polypeptide is purified essentially to homogeneity.

159. (New) The method of claim 128, wherein the bacterial cell is from a patient.